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Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear LLP*Intellectual Property Law*

3403 Tenth Street
Suite 700
Riverside CA 92501
Tel 951-781-9231
Fax 951-781-4507
kmob.com

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 Katsuhiko Arai

Korean Patent Atty
 Mincheol Kim
 Heungsoo Choi

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* A Professional Corporation
 † Also Barister At Law (reg. 4 mem)
 ** U.S. Patent Agent
 †† Also Solicitor (reg. 4 mem)

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 FROM: Linda H. Liu
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 Tel 619-235-6550
 Fax 619-235-0176

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Harvey Dale DeFord et al.
Appl. No. : 09/973,844
Filed : October 9, 2001
For : COMPOSITE BUILDING
MATERIAL
Examiner : Brian E. Glessner
Group Art Unit : 3635

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February 9, 2005

(Date)

Linda H. Liu, Rep. No. 51,240

AMENDMENT AFTER ALLOWANCE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.312

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.312
after the mailing of the notice of allowance and before payment of the issue fee.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 55 as follows:

55. (Currently Amended) A building material, comprising:

a first component, wherein the first component comprises a pre-formed fiber
cement layer having a density of between about 53 to 115 lb/ft³ and a fiber cement content
between about 5-12 wt.%;

a second component positioned adjacent the first component, wherein at least a
portion of the components forms interpenetrating mechanical and chemical bonding with the
other components; and

wherein the fibers of the first component extend in a substantially planar
orientation substantially parallel to a surface of the pre-formed fiber cement layer.